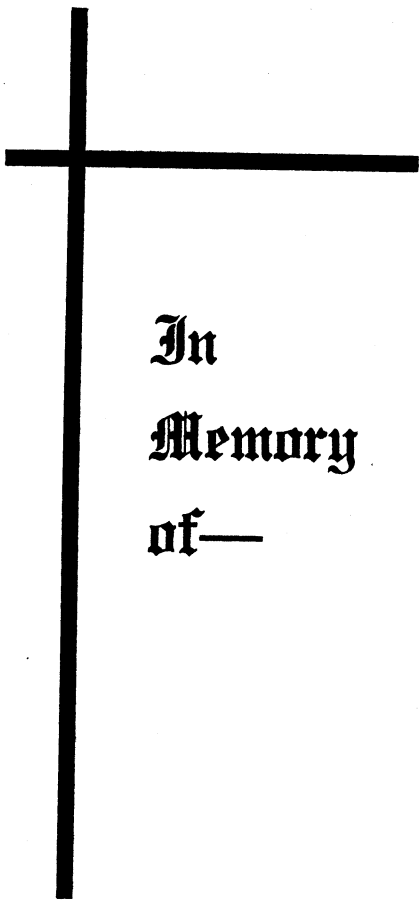


Wells H. Buckingham



In

Memory

of—

Wells H. Buckingham

It becomes our sad duty to chronicle the death of Wells H. Buckingham, a well known and highly respected citizen of Terre Haute. He departed this life yesterday morning after an illness of three weeks. The typhoid fever to which he fell a victim, made its fiercest assault upon his brain and during the greater portion of his illness he was delirious. For several months past his business duties have been especially onerous, and under the mental strain to which he was subjected, his physical frame gave way. Had it not been known otherwise that there had been this strain upon his faculties, it would have partly been made clear by the fact that it was the one theme upon which his mind dwelt constantly in his illness. His fancy was that he was at his office, that business was accumulating and that his assistants and himself must be alert to keep all things in order. And then, finding himself at home, he would seek to rise. Being prevented in this his thoughts would resume their former current, to be interrupted as before, and so on and on repeatedly. Through the broken rifts of his fever-clouded

Read Nov 15

vision occasional gleams of consciousness, generally exhibited in his recognition of family or of friends, gave evidence of the fierce struggle raging within him between his vital forces and disease. During the last forty-eight hours he was in a comatose condition and thus, unconscious of the grief of loving wife and children, his soul passed from the troubled sleep of fever to the restful quiet of death.

Deceased was born at New Milford, Connecticut, July 5th, 1827. Sprung from a sturdy New England stock, and filled with that restless spirit of adventure which has led the youth of those older communities to seek their fortunes in the West, Mr. Buckingham came to Terre Haute in 1848. He has lived here continuously since, with the exception of a year in 1872 and 1873, when he was at St. Louis. He started a book store on his arrival in Terre Haute in 1848, and was engaged in that business very nearly up to the time when he left the city for St. Louis. His knowledge of books, his literary instincts, which made him an instrument in forming taste as well as in gratifying it, and his sound business sense all contributed to make his store a social as well as business center. Hundreds of boys and girls, now men and women, studied books bought at his store and

there is no private library in the city which dates back to that time that has not in it more or less books selected by him.

On his return to Terre Haute in 1873 he was elected Auditor of the Terre Haute & Indianapolis railroad, a position he has held with marked ability until now.

A quiet and retiring man in his disposition, it was necessary to know him well to appreciate the manifold excellencies of his character. He was an upright, honorable man in all his dealings. No person was ever intentionally wronged by him, and he was always ready to repair any injury he may have been in any way instrumental in inflicting. His instincts were all those of a gentleman. Large trusts as well as small ones were equally inviolable in his hands. He possessed, moreover, a quaint sense of humor which made him a cherished companion of those who enjoyed the privilege of his friendship. These qualities and a reputation above reproach are the heritage he leaves to his wife and children, and the recollection of which will serve to keep his memory green with the friends he has left to mourn his loss.

Mrs. Sophia M. Buckingham

(From the Alton Evening Telegraph,
November 26, 1919.)

Mrs. Sophia W. Buckingham, widow of W. H. Buckingham, died Tuesday evening at 9:40 o'clock at her home, 402 Prospect street, a week after she suffered a physical breakdown. She was born in New York City, October 21, 1834, and was in her eighty-sixth year.

Mrs. Buckingham's death had been expected ever since she began to show signs of a physical breakdown about a week ago. She had been in the best of health, and had been sick but a very few days in her life, and she was remarkable for the preservation of her strength and all her faculties.

She was a woman of intellectual culture, her mind was keen and alert, and she was a charming and interesting conversationalist. She was a great reader and her interest in what was going on in the world made it possible for her to maintain her cheerfulness even after all of her friends had passed on before her, and she had but two children left. She had seen much of sorrow in her life,

but she never lost her cheerfulness and she was a friend who was highly esteemed by all who knew her. To talk with her was sure to impress one with the fact that she had to a most remarkable degree retained her mental powers, and though her friends of her own age had long ago died, she made many friends among the younger set who valued her acquaintance.

Mrs. Buckingham was a member of a distinguished Colonial family, being a grand niece of Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and through her line there has come a valuable ring which was worn by Roger Sherman at the time he signed the Declaration of Independence.

For fifteen years she had made her home in Alton. Her husband who was auditor of the Vandalia railroad, died 41 years before her. Her daughter, Mrs. Mary Hanna, died a few years ago. In the latter years of her life, Mrs. Buckingham resided with her daughter, Miss Anna Buckingham, who took most devoted interest in the mother and ministered to her every want. In the closing hours the daughter and the son, Joseph W. Buckingham, were constantly with her. Sunday afternoon she was no longer conscious of what was going on about her and remained that way

until about 15 minutes before she died when she revived, recognized her family at her bedside, then slipped away.

The funeral will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in which she had held membership. The services will be conducted by Rev. Frederick D. Butler. Friends of the family are invited to the church services but interment will be private.



OBITUARY.

Death of Another Prominent Citizen.

On Sunday morning at 8 o'clock occurred the death of Mr. W. H. Buckingham, auditor of the Vandalia Line, at his residence on Ohio street near Seventh. He had been sick about two weeks, his disease being typhoid fever. The deceased leaves a wife and four children. The funeral will be held at 3 o'clock this afternoon, at the Episcopal church.

Mr. Buckingham first served the Vandalia Line as cashier at East St. Louis from December 15th, 1870, until August 1st, 1871, when he was appointed agent for the company for St. Louis; held that position until January 10th, 1872, when he was elected secretary of the company. July 1st, 1874 he was elected auditor, and filled these positions, secretary and auditor, up to the date of his death.

Communicated.

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